



General Assembly

February Session, 2012

Raised Bill No. 5363

LCO No. 1468

01468_____JUD

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

Introduced by:
(JUD)

***AN ACT CONCERNING INTERVIEWS OF CHILDREN BY THE
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES DURING
INVESTIGATIONS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17a-101h of the 2012 supplement to the general
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective October 1, 2012*):

4 Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, any person
5 authorized to conduct an investigation of abuse or neglect shall
6 coordinate investigatory activities in order to minimize the number of
7 interviews of any child and share information with other persons
8 authorized to conduct an investigation of child abuse or neglect, as
9 appropriate. A person reporting child abuse or neglect shall provide
10 any person authorized to conduct an investigation of child abuse or
11 neglect with all information related to the investigation that is in the
12 possession or control of the person reporting child abuse or neglect,
13 except as expressly prohibited by state or federal law. The
14 [commissioner] Department of Children and Families shall obtain the
15 consent of parents or guardians or other persons responsible for the

16 care of the child to any interview with a child, except that such consent
17 shall not be required [when the department has reason] if the
18 department (1) determines that the allegation concerns child abuse and
19 not child neglect, and (2) has reasonable cause to believe such parent
20 or guardian or other person responsible for the care of the child or
21 member of the child's household is the perpetrator of the alleged
22 abuse. If consent is not required to conduct the interview, such
23 interview shall be conducted in the presence of a disinterested adult,
24 who is not personally involved in the allegation under investigation,
25 unless immediate access to the child is necessary to protect the child
26 from imminent risk of physical harm and a disinterested adult is not
27 available after reasonable search.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	October 1, 2012	17a-101h
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Statement of Purpose:

To clarify when it is permissible for the Department of Children and Families to interview a child without the consent of the child's parent or guardian.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]